

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS SEIZURES AND PROSECUTION

SUMMARY: BANGKOK PRESS AUGUST 27 REPORTS TWO SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS BY THAI POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION POLICE, ACTING ON A TIP-OFF, ARRESTED TWO THAI ARMY PERSONNEL (SGT. ANEK PHOLKHIRI AND SGT. THANOM SRISOD) ON AUGUST 26. THOSE ARRESTED WERE CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF SEVEN KILOGRAMS OF NO. 4 HEROIN, WHICH THEY WERE APPARENTLY WAITING TO DELIVER TO AN UNIDENTIFIED CUSTOMER. TWO OTHER MEN WHO WERE WITH THE SERGEANTS MANAGED TO ESCAPE. THOSE ARRESTED TOLD POLICE THE HEROIN BELONGED TO AN UNIDENTIFIED HAW TRIBESMAN AND TO A MR. MENH, BOTH OF WHOM ESCAPED.

2. THAI CUSTOMS OFFICERS AT DON MAUNG AIRPORT, BANGKOK, ON AUGUST 26 ARRESTED PAIBOON POONSOMBAT, 36, A THAI NATIONAL WHO WAS CARRYING A BRIEF CASE AND OVERNIGHT BAG CONTAINING 15 KILOGRAMS OF COOKED OPIUM AND SEVEN KILOGRAMS OF NO. 3 HEROIN. PAIBOON POONSOMBAT HAD BEEN BOOKED FOR HONG KONG ON A CATHAY PACIFIC FLIGHT BUT ATTRACTED ATTENTION WHEN HE SOUGHT TO AVOID CUSTOMS OFFICERS WHO WANTED TO CHECK HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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BAGS. HE HAD NO EFFECTS OTHER THAN THE NARCOTICS IN THE

BAGS. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN HIRED BY A CHINESE NAMED MR. WONG WHOM HE MET IN BANGKOK EARLIER IN AUGUST. HE WAS TOLD A MAN WOULD MEET HIM AT KAI TAK AIRPORT IN HONG KONG AND PAY HIM FOR THE NARCOTICS AT THAT TIME.

3. BANGKOK POST REPORTS THAT ON AUGUST 26 THE BANGKOK CRIMINAL COURT SENTENCED MICHEL GABRIEL LIABERT TO 16 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AFTER FINDING HIM GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE 10 KILOGRAMS OF FIRST GRADE MORPHINE OUT OF THE COUNTRY. LIABERT PLEADED GUILTY TO THE CHARGE, AND HIS SENTENCE WAS REDUCED TO EIGHT YEARS. LIABERT WAS TRAVELING WITH ANOTHER FRENCH NATIONAL, JEAN PIERRE CANNIELLE AMANS, AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST LAST MAY. AMANS, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE "FRENCH CONNECTION", ESCAPED ARREST AND IS STILL AT LARGE. ALAIN LUCIEN JOSEPH TRIGON, WHO WAS ARRESTED WITH LIABERT, LEFT THAILAND IN EARLY AUGUST WHEN THE PROSECUTION DROPPED CHARGES AGAINST HIM.
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